

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CAIRO NEWS SUMMARY - JANUARY 17

1. LEBANESE NEWSPAPER AN-NAHAR'S INTERVIEW WITH SADAT IS MAJOR STORY. ALL PAPERS EMPHASIZE EGYPT'S REFUSAL TO END WAR UNILATERALLY, EGYPTIAN INSISTENCE ON SIMULTANEOUS WITHDRAWAL FROM THREE FRONTS WITHIN THREE MONTHS, READINESS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION IF SYRIA IS ATTACKED AND DENIAL OF CONFLICT WITH PALESTINIANS. AL-AHRAM QUOTES SADAT'S STATEMENTS THAT "IF SOVIETS SEEK TO MAINTAIN THEIR IMAGE IN ARAB WORLD, THEY OUGHT TO FULFILL COMMITMENTS OF EGYPTIAN-SOVIET 'FRIENDSHIP' TREATY." AL-AKHBAR'S HEADLINE OF INTERVIEW DECLARED THAT EGYPT HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY SOVIET AID IN 14 MONTHS.

2. OTHER FRONTPAGE STORIES IN ALL PAPERS INCLUDE: SADAT'S THREE-DAY VISIT TO FRANCE STARTING JANUARY 27, FEISAL AT SYRIAN AIR FORCE PARADE, EGYPTIAN CABINET DECISIONS AFFECTING FOOD SUPPLIES AND PRICES TO BE ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT, SENATOR PERCY'S PRESS CONFERENCE (WITH EMPHASIS ON FAVORABLE REMARKS ABOUT SADAT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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EGYPT'S INTEREST IN PEACE), AND MOSLEM-CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

ON JERUSALEM (SUPPLEMENTED WITH PHOTO OF PARTICIPANTS (AL-AHRAM AND AL-GOMHOURIYA). ALSO FRONT-PAGED IS DESTRUCTION OF LEBANSE VILLAGE BY ISRAELI ARTILLERY (AL-AHRAM), ARAFAT'S MESSAGE TO SADAT AND FORMER'S SCHEDULED CAIRO ARRIVAL "WITHIN DAYS" (AL-AHRAM AND AL-GOMHOURIYA).

3. EDITORIALY, AL-AHRAM SAYS THAT "EGYPT DOES NOT REJECT PRINCIPLE OF STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ABSOLUTELY REJECTS PARTIAL OR UNILATERAL SETTLEMENT CONCLUDED WITH ONE OF ARAB PARTIES." COLUMNIST AL-GAMMAL NOTES THAT MANY INVESTMENT PROJECTS ARE APPROVED BY GOE BUT NOT CARRIED OUT. AL-AKHBAR CHARGED THAT "ISRAEL IS USING ARMED TERRORISM TO DRIVE OUT INHABITANTS FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON...AND CREATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE." AL-GOMHOURIYA HOPES THAT CURRENT MOSLEM-CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CAN PLAY ROLE IN "SAVING JERUSALEM."
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